

MEDICAL EPISODE GROUPEE



Health Plan

Thomson Reuters Medical Episode Grouper enables health plans to analyze patient treatments, evaluate quality of care, and manage associated costs. It does so by grouping inpatient, outpatient, and pharmaceutical claims into clinically homogeneous units of analysis called episodes that describe a patient's complete course of care for a single illness or condition. The result is a sophisticated methodology that is used for a wide range of applications such as provider profiling, disease management, quality improvement, and cost and use analysis. Organizations can incorporate *Medical Episode Grouper* into their existing information system, or it can serve as an integrated component of *Thomson Reuters Advantage Suite™*.

LEADING HEALTH PLANS ARE CHALLENGED TO ANSWER HARD QUESTIONS:

- Can we provide a credible response to the claim "My patients are sicker!"?
- Can we fairly assess the extent to which medical treatments are appropriate?
- Are we using accurate methods to rate employer groups and compare physicians?
- How can we accurately measure the ROI of disease management programs?
- Can we accurately identify our highest-risk patients?

THE CORNERSTONE FOR ACCURATE HEALTHCARE ANALYSIS

Medical Episode Grouper is an established episode methodology that is used by payers analyzing over 43 million covered lives. Since its inception in 1998, *Medical Episode Grouper* has been continually improved and is a trusted resource for its ability to accurately measure physician performance, improve quality, and reduce costs. Physicians identify with a methodology that is based on clinical models and find *Medical Episode Grouper's* risk-adjustments credible. Founded upon 25 years of clinical expertise, *Medical Episode Grouper* makes accurate physician evaluation possible and enables plans to evaluate quality of care.

BENEFITS

- Enables physician engagement and collaboration
- Provides a clinically sound basis to improve quality
- Helps avoid unnecessary medical interventions and reduce costs
- Improves the clinical basis for patient selection and targets the right patients for the right programs
- Offers a more accurate reflection of ROI for your disease/care management programs

FEATURES

- Clinically-defined measures that physicians find credible
- Ability to review severity stratified data and assess the appropriateness of procedures
- Build episodes based on the clinical diagnosis of the patient's illness
- Identify high risk patients for disease/care management programs
- Allow for evaluation of disease/care management programs on a risk-adjusted basis

The Building Blocks of a Clinically Robust Episode Grouper Methodology

✓	Data Sources
✓	Classification
✓	Beginning and Ending Episodes
✓	Inclusion Logic
✓	Mapping of National Drug Codes (NDCs)
✓	Lookback Procedure
✓	Data Cut Backs
✓	Physician Attribution



Risk-Adjusted Medical Episode Grouper Helps Health Plans More Accurately Evaluate Physicians

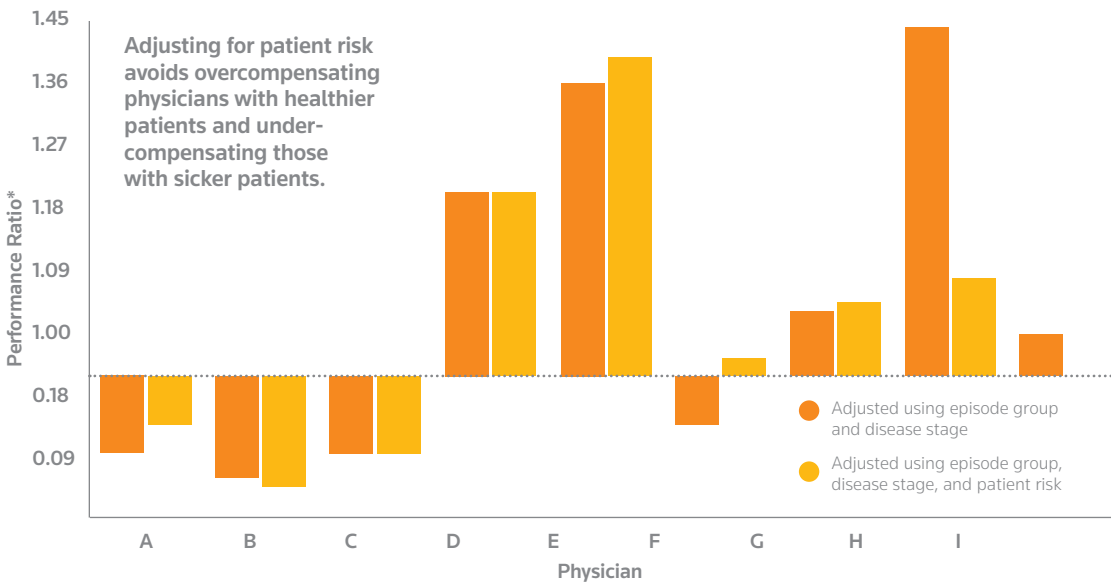
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*1.00 = Average performance across all physicians

SIX QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN SELECTING A MEDICAL EPISODE GROUPEUR

1. Does it offer specific and detailed characterization of the clinical severity of a patient's illness?
2. Is it sensitive to the most detailed level of clinical findings available in the data?
3. Does it deliver clinically robust characterization of episodes to provide results that are relevant and meaningful to physicians?
4. Does it measure the patient's overall complexity using DCGs, the most widely accepted risk measurement methodology?
5. Does it provide a statistical model that identifies any and all significant impacts of a patient's complexity on specific episodes?
6. Is it based on a clinical definition of illness severity? (*This results in comparisons of provider efficiency that are clinically meaningful and avoids the fundamental flaw of resource-based methods: the assumption that all interventions are appropriate and timely.*)

THE THOMSON REUTERS DIFFERENCE

Risk-Adjusted *Medical Episode Grouper* is uniquely qualified to support your analytic needs by:

- Incorporating predictive modeling risk scores
- Mapping 15,000+ ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes
- Choosing clinical models most relevant to physicians
- Employing disease management severity stratification
- Frequently updating coding/pharmacy logic
- Using disease staging methodology

Only *Medical Episode Grouper* has a patent-pending, risk-adjusted methodology which results in higher predictive value. *Medical Episode Grouper* also incorporates the fifth edition Disease Staging® patient classification system with 555 disease categories — enabling a sophisticated understanding of conditions, disease progression, and care choices.

To keep up with the latest advances in medicine, Thomson Reuters assembled a distinguished panel of experts including over 50 physician specialists, and every disease category was reviewed by at least three physicians. With this level of discipline and continuous improvement you can be confident that *Medical Episode Grouper* delivers better information and better results.

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